

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Space Center Intermediate School educators visit JSC

By John Ira Petty

About 90 teachers and administrators at Space Center Intermediate School got a close-up look at the nation's human space flight program during an early January visit at Johnson Space Center.

The school, part of the Clear Creek Independent School District and now across the street from Clear Lake High School, has about 1,200 students. It is scheduled to move next fall to the new facility under construction on the northwest side of JSC. About 1,400 students will attend.

Center Director George Abbey told the educators that "We look upon our partnership with the Clear Creek Independent School District as being an important part of our mission. You represent the future. As we look ahead to what we have to do beyond space station, as we look at the missions we're going to be doing beyond Earth orbit, the key to those missions is the youth of today."

The future of the nation in an increasingly competitive world depends on technology. "So we look at our involvement with you as important to us. We want to support you in what you do with young people.

"We look at this as a partnership," Abbey said. With the new school on JSC land, he said, "we hope ... we can work with you and provide the resources and capabilities that you will have to have to do your job. You are really the key to the future."

Astronaut Yvonne Cagle told the educators their visit to JSC was sort of a "Rendezvous with space. "A career in space



JSC Photo S99-00191

Mae Mangieri, left, and Lori Wheaton of the education department in the Public Affairs Office observe Space Center Intermediate School educators as they check out online NASA resources during their recent visit to JSC.

is more than just a profession. It is an expression of our enchantment with the galaxy, where the fascination lies less with the answers than with the questions.

"A career in space is a personal invitation to explore the most remote crevasses of our universe in search of resources and remedies that can one day serve to preserve, restore and preserve our health and our environment." Health and environment affects everyone. "So not only is space for everyone, but everyone should be for space," Cagle said.

A physician who was selected as an astronaut in April 1996, Cagle showed the

teachers and administrators a film about astronaut training. Study is critical to prepare astronauts for flight, she said. She urged her audience to remind their pupils that not all study is done at a desk.

Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield presented slides from STS-74, the November 1995 mission on *Atlantis* that installed the docking module on the Russian space station Mir.

He described the emotion on the orbiter after the successful docking of the module to Mir. "You're so busy, you're so focused, and you've been training for so long that no one said anything about

what had happened for about five minutes." Then, one of the crew said "We did it - we're here," he recalled, and there were congratulations all around.

Hadfield also talked about the International Space Station. He is scheduled to fly on STS-100 in the year 2000 to the ISS. The mission that will include a crew changeout, delivery of an Italian-made logistics module and installation of an advanced Canadian robotic arm. During that mission he is to become the first Canadian to perform a spacewalk.

Hadfield was selected as a Canadian astronaut in June 1992. He had been a test pilot, working with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy aircraft. Before becoming a test pilot, He had flown Canadian CF-18 aircraft for NORAD.

During those years he intercepted Soviet aircraft probing North American defenses and armed with weapons of mass destruction. His own aircraft was armed too - it was a time of threat, counterthreat and tension.

Today former Soviet military pilots are among the Russian cosmonauts.

Much of the educators' day was devoted to a visit to training facilities in Bldg. 9, a stop at a computer lab in Bldg. 12 for an introduction to online NASA resources, and a hands-on partnering session as well as discussion on interdisciplinary projects in a Bldg. 17 classroom.

"It was a real learning experience," the school's principal, James Stephens, said that afternoon, especially for those teachers new to the area. "We're looking forward to developing that working relationship with JSC." ■

1998 – A banner year for on-site blood drives

With the December 1998 blood drive, JSC's On-site Blood Drive Program concluded the most productive year since the inception of its partnership with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

Generous donors gave 364 pints of blood during the December drive. The timing of the event was especially important because blood is always in short supply during the holidays.

Overall, JSC employees and contractors donated 2,230 pints of blood during 1998 blood drives. That represents a 46 percent increase over last year's total of 1,523 pints. Employee participation in the blood drive program has been increasing ever since 1996, when the JSC

Blood Drive Committee was formed to initiate a push to get more employees interested in donating blood. Prior to that, the program typically drew about 400 donors per year.

Deana Hackfeld, of the Space Station Program Office, was the lucky 2,000th donor for 1998 and received a gift certificate to a local seafood restaurant as a special door prize. She said, "I give because it's a good thing to do. There are lots of sick folks who could use every drop that can be donated. Many of them are children with leukemia or some other rare disease. These children need our help. The whole process takes less than half an hour. That's not very much time to help save a life." ■

Girls Scouts send powerful message: *friendship conquers hatred*

Six thousand two hundred and forty-four Girl Scouts, their leaders, and adult Girl Scout volunteers recently joined hands in friendship to form the World's Largest Friendship Circle at Six Flags AstroWorld theme park in Houston. San Jacinto Girl Scout Council made the world-record attempt to illustrate that friendship conquers hatred in every situation and in every part of the world.

Houston Mayor Lee Brown and Coach Van Chancellor of the WNBA World Champion Houston Comets were the official witnesses and provided Guinness Book of World Records with a signed statement to authenticate the attempt. Astronaut Yvonne Cagle was among the honored guests. ■



Cadette Girl Scout Lori E. and Astronaut Yvonne Cagle speak to the crowd at the Astroneedle stage during the Friendship Circle presentation.

The blood drive schedule for 1999

- ♥ February 17 and 18
- ♥ April 21 and 22
- ♥ June 23 and 24
- ♥ August 19 and 20
- ♥ October 20 and 21

For your convenience, JSC blood drives are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like more information about donating blood, see JSC's blood donor program Web site located on the Human Resources homepage. Retirees may view the Web site on the JSC retiree homepage.

Or call Dan Mangieri at x33003.